

UNAIDS 2025

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# United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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2024 Results Report



## United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is mandated to protect, assist and find durable solutions for refugees, stateless and forcibly displaced persons. UNHCR provides life-saving assistance during emergencies and supports sustainable responses while pursuing solutions across 130 countries.

### HIV in UNHCR's mandate

UNHCR emphasizes sustainable and resilient approaches from the onset of an emergency. By working in close partnerships with communities, partners and host governments, UNHCR ensures that refugees and forcibly displaced persons, including those living with and affected by HIV, are included in robust national health systems. Reliable data is crucial for advocating targeted investments, enhancing well-being, achieving protection outcomes and solutions for both refugees and host communities.

### Key UNHCR strategy for HIV

UNHCR is committed to supporting refugees, stateless people and host communities to access comprehensive HIV-related services through a holistic and multisectoral approach encompassing health, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and mental health care. Recognizing that people living with or affected by HIV are often underserved in humanitarian settings, UNHCR collaborates with host governments and humanitarian partners to integrate HIV services into emergency preparedness and response frameworks. In 2025, UNHCR will update its [Global Public Health Strategy](#) and contribute to the development of the new Global AIDS Strategy.

In 2024, UNHCR, together with the World Food Programme and the UNAIDS Secretariat, revitalized the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on HIV in Emergencies, led through a jointly supported position based in Dakar, Senegal. Key outcomes from the IATT work included [a revamped website](#); formation of three technical working groups to advance the update of the 2010 Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guideline for Addressing HIV in Humanitarian settings; and the development of a country priority matrix to support capacity strengthening and joint missions. In addition, the third working group focused on joint advocacy work to ensure HIV in humanitarian settings is featured through evidenced based approach. Work began on revising the [2010 IASC Guideline for Addressing HIV in Humanitarian settings](#), which included recruiting a consultant, conducting desk reviews, a survey and global consultations through key informant interviews and focus group discussions. These efforts resulted in a catalogue of initial recommendations for updating the guidelines, culminating in a Global Technical Consultative workshop.

### Top results in 2024

**Continued improvement in access to HIV testing, treatment, care and support through a rights-based approach.** According to the 2024 UNHCR annual public health survey, which covered 54 countries, 96% (47 out of 49) of participating countries have adopted a national “test and treat” policy, with 92% (43 out of 47) of them applying it within refugee operations. HIV self-testing is included in the national policies of 63% (31 out of 49) of countries, among which 61% (19 out of 31) have introduced self-testing in refugee operations. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is part of the national policy in 80% (39 out of 49) of countries, with 72% (28 out of 39) offering it to key populations in refugee settings. Prevention of vertical transmission services are integrated in primary healthcare in 88% (43 out of 49) of countries, with 94% (46 out of 49) of those countries providing these services to refugees. In 2024, 195 517 pregnant

women were tested for HIV during antenatal care, and 24 088 individuals living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy (ART). Additionally, 95% (37 out of 39) of countries reported monitoring and supporting adolescent refugee sexual and reproductive health services.

**An effective response to HIV in emergencies supported through a joint mission by UNHCR, WFP, UNAIDS and UNICEF to Ethiopia in 2024.** The mission assessed the current situation, identified gaps and proposed strategies to enhance integration and advocate for essential resources mobilization. Key findings from the mission underscored the importance of supporting community-led programmes, which often are underfunded and overlooked during emergencies, despite being essential for reaching the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. The team held discussions with the Ministry of Health, which is planning a baseline HIV survey that will include humanitarian contexts and inform the country's national HIV strategy.

**Integration of HIV in humanitarian initiatives supported through a Global Technical Consultative Workshop.** This workshop was collaboratively convened by UNHCR, WFP and the Secretariat in Rome. It revisited the 2010 IASC guideline, which resulted in proposed recommendations for a revision.

**Awareness and commitment on addressing HIV and other priority health issues in humanitarian settings intensified.** On World AIDS Day, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WHO jointly organized a commemoration event which included a panel discussion focusing on the critical needs and challenges for refugees living with and affected by HIV. Public health action in humanitarian settings was supported by the publication of [Public Health advice on mpox for people living in camps, refugee populations, internally displaced people and migrants](#), which was jointly developed and published by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization on Migration and the World Food Programme (WFP). The guidance provides information and recommendations to reduce the risk of mpox transmission in places where people live closely together, especially in camp-like settings for refugees and internally displaced people and accommodations for migrants.

**Strategic information for action strengthened.** In 2024, the Regional Refugee Response conducted [a multisectoral and multistakeholder study](#) across 10 European countries hosting Ukrainian refugees. Assessing access to health (including sexual and reproductive health, including care for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections), mental health and psychosocial support services, the report identified barriers and challenges, including household expenditures for refugee health needs.

**[UNHCR collaborates with the Government of Kenya to build better futures for refugees through durable solutions.](#)** It is applying an innovative approach called the "Shirika Plan" which is aimed at transforming refugee camps into settlements where refugees and hosts can coexist and benefit from inclusion in national systems and development programmes that promote self-reliance and economic development, thereby reducing their dependence on humanitarian assistance. This plan is expected to promote social cohesion and overall well-being, including for people living with HIV, while also making a significant contribution to the economy.

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